The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

California Academy of Sciences

December 1987

A Whopping Small Dinosaur Comes to December Members' Meetings

Paleontologists prepare the Thecodont skeleton for airlift to Berkeley

The story of a hunt in ancient soils for an animal older than the dinosaurs will be told at the December Members' Meetings on Wednesday, December 9 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. "A Whopping Small Dinosaur," the documentary film chronicling this adventure, follows paleontologist Robert Long and a team from the University of California at Berkeley while they search ancient Triassic beds of the Painted Desert in Arizona for skeletons of Thecodonts, primitive ancestors of dinosaurs that roamed the Earth over 200 million years ago. The anticipation and excitement of the dig, the airlift of the plastered block and the preparation back in the University are riveting highlights of the adventure. The Thecodont that the team discovered may prove to be one of the oldest dinosaurs ever found and has added new insights to the study of how dinosaurs began their 150 million year reign on Earth.

"A Whopping Small Dinosaur," which has won several major film festival's awards, will be introduced by producer and director Lauren E. Dunbar and Robert Long, who will answer questions following the film.

Come early to the evening members' meetings and do some holiday shopping using your 10% members' discount. The Academy Store will be open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on December 9 and 10 for members only.

The Members' Meetings on January 13 and 14 will offer Minette Bell Macdonald speaking on "The Birds of Northern Scotland."

The Pacific Arts Trio

The Pacific Arts Trio, a distinguished ensemble of flute, harp, and cello, presents classical music from every era on Tuesday, December 8 at 8:00 p.m. in Morrison Planetarium. For the trio, the notes on the page are just the beginning. The musicians, each a principal with the Oakland Symphony, paint a variety of musical images, lending new dimensions to old music and a refreshing format to new music. Flutist Angela Koregelos, harpist Natalie Cox, and cellist Daniel Reiter treat audiences to an evening of beautiful music by Scarlatti, Debussy, Sweelink, Gershwin, Bloch, and Rodrigo under the starry skies of Morrison Planetarium.

Tickets are $6 for members and $8 for non-members. To purchase tickets, send a check and a self-addressed envelope to Morrison Planetarium, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. For information call (415) 750-7127.

Sunday Afternoon Concert

A free concert by the San Francisco Park and Recreation Symphony Orchestra will be held in Wattis Hall on Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. The orchestra with pianist Carol Fontana will perform "The Beethoven Emperor Concerto."

Traditional Arts

Neva Russian Dance Ensemble

The Traditional Arts programs offer a first-hand look at the customs of cultures from around the world. The programs, which take place in Wattis Hall, are sponsored by a grant from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation. All programs begin at 1:00 p.m.

December 5 — The Neva Russian Dance Ensemble performs social, ritual, and seasonal dances from Moldavia, Russia and the Ukraine, including exuberant Cossack styles, with regional costumes and narration on the symbolic significance of movements and gestures.

December 12 — In the spirit of a Dickensian Christmas, singer musicians Redmond O'Colonies, Annie Lore, and Richard Koldewyn present "Tiny Tim's Victorian Sing-Along." Come and sing your favorite carols with this talented trio, well-known locally for their comedy routines.

Christmas Special — December 12 at 2:30. Get in the mood of the Holiday season with the Deutscher Musik-Verein concert band playing Christmas music from around the world.

For Bird Watchers With an Eagle Eye

William S. Clark, author of the new "Peterson Field Guide to Hawks" will discuss "State of Art in Raptor Field Identification" on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Academy. Clark is the former director of the Raptor Information Center for the National Wildlife Foundation and is currently doing research on the hawk migration through Eilat, Israel, the largest single migration site in the world.

Co-sponsored by the Academy and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory of the GGNPA, the evening will include time for questions and booksigning of this newest Peterson field guide, which may be purchased at the lecture. Tickets are available at the door for $2 for members of the two sponsoring organizations or $3 for non-members. For information call (415) 556-2236.

Laserium Presents the Grateful Dead

"Laserium Presents the Grateful Dead" is the newest laser show in the Planetarium. Joining the continuing shows "Moonrock," "Rainbow Cadenza," with classical music and "Rendezvous with Jean-Michel Jarre," this expanded program offers a laser light show for every musical taste. Laserium shows are offered Thursday through Sunday evenings. There will not be Laserium shows on December 24 or 25, and only a 5:00 show on New Year's Eve. For a complete schedule call (415) 750-7138. Don't forget, since the Laserium is not an Academy production, there is no membership discount.

Food Symposium Planned for Spring

Save the date! "Chilies to Chocolates: Foods the Americas Gave the World" is an all day food adventure sponsored by the Academy of Sciences and the Rietz Food Technology Foundation. The symposium, set for March 12 at the Academy, will bring together archaeologists, anthropologists, botanists, food historians, writers, and chefs to discuss the history, uses and future of native foods of the Americas. Tickets will be $40 for members of the Academy, $50 for non-members.

Young Photographers, Get Ready

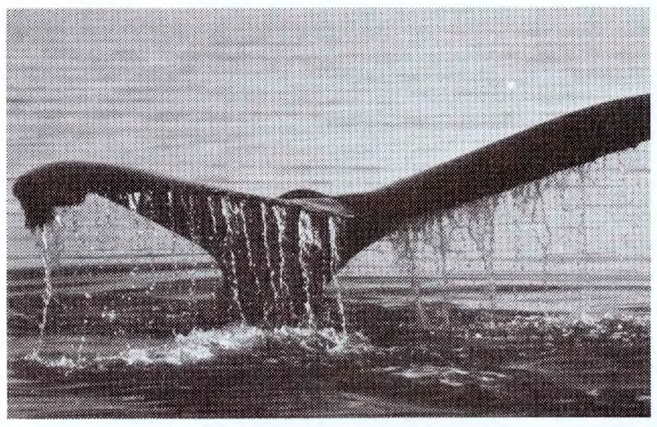
Entry forms are now available for the sixth annual Photography Contest for Young People. All photographers under 18 can enter their work for a chance to win prizes and be part of an exhibition of works to be displayed at the Academy in 1988. The competition is sponsored by KRON-TV and the California Academy of Sciences. For information and entry forms call the Academy's Education Office at (415) 750-7100.

Members to Receive Annual Report

This year, as a cost saving measure, an abbreviated version of the Academy's 1986-87 annual report will be included in your January issue of Pacific Discovery Magazine.

Holiday Festival at the Academy

A special evening of holiday activities will be held for Academy members on Monday, December 7 beginning at 6:45 p.m. The free evening will be filled with exciting events for the entire family.



Al Giddings

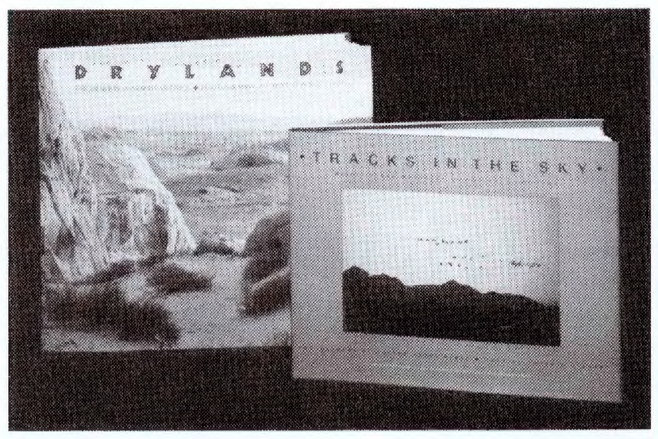
Humpback Whale

Ocean Symphony

This spectacular underwater video created by Al Giddings will make its Bay Area debut. Using a treasure of underwater images from Gidding's 18 year career, the film uses high speed photography and special underwater lighting to capture unforgettable images of sharks, whales, flamboyant fish and invertebrates as they live in the oceans of the world. An original musical score by Arthur Kempel makes this a moving experience of the power and grace of the oceans. Al Giddings, who also did the underwater photography in "The Deep," "Never Cry Wolf," and many James Bond features, will introduce this 45 minute film.

Holiday Exhibit

"Nativity Folk Art," December 8 through January 3, displays nativity scenes from many cultures showing how each group has interpreted the story of the birth of Jesus. The creches are on loan from Olga and Warren Tarshis.



Ann Giordano

Meet the Photographers and Authors!

Photographer **Tupper Ansel Blake** and author **Peter Steinhart** will answer questions about their exhibit "Tracks in the Sky" and autograph their book of the same name.

Phillip Hyde, creator of "Drylands: The Deserts of North America" will sign copies of his book in his exhibit in Cowell Hall.

Susan Middleton

The Academy's Santa always has a special surprise in his sack

Santa Visits the Academy!

The Holidays at the Academy just wouldn't be the same without Santa's annual visit to tell the tale of the Christmas Frog and to spread good cheer and jolly reptile news. And, of course, Santa will have sweet rewards provided by See's Candies for anyone who has been a good naturalist this year.

Shopping Made Fun and Easy!

The Academy Store will be open with an exciting array of cards, books, jewelry, and countless gift ideas, all available at the 10% members' discount.

Jerry Kay, producer of the Academy's radio program "Science in Action" will be on hand to talk about the program, and sell copies of "Sharks," "Dinosaurs," and "Earthquakes" the fun and informative Science in Action Learning Kits for youngsters.

Antique jars from the Herpetology Department, some dating from 1905, make a memorable and unique gift. The jars are priced from $5 to $25 and are an attractive gift that can be filled with cookies, candies or other special treats.

The Evening Program

6:30 to 9:30
- Shop at The Academy Store.
- The Academy, including the Aquarium, is open.
- Science in Action Kits and antique jars for sale in Cowell Hall.

7:00 & 8:00
- Santa comes to Cowell Hall

7:00 to 8:30
- Phillip Hyde signing books in "Drylands" exhibit

7:00 to 8:30
- Tupper Ansel Blake and Peter Steinhart signing books in "Tracks in the Sky" exhibit

7:30 & 8:30
- Ocean Symphony film in auditorium

Return to The Far Side of Sciences

Chronicle Features

In 1984 the Academy of Sciences opened a special exhibit, "The Far Side of Science," featuring the work of cartoonist Gary Larson. This off-beat exhibit attracted over 850,000 visitors and helped them understand, in a humorous way, the work of the Academy and its scientists. When the exhibit closed after seven months, we kept hearing, "Is it ever coming back?" Now, two years later, on Thanksgiving Day, comes The Far Side of Science Gallery with a special honor from the artist that makes the California Academy of Sciences "the only museum on this planet" where people can see original Far Side cartoons.

The gallery will display 169 black and white and brilliant Sunday color cartoons, most of which were not seen in the original show, plus specimens including a giant microscope that puts visitors under the lens, making learning about science a truly pleasant experience. Some of the cartoons have side bars with solid scientific information from Academy staff. For instance, while laughing at a cartoon that shows the termite queen laying her eggs and yelling for pickles and ice cream, visitors can read a brief but accurate description of the queen's life within the colony. A favorite shark cartoon is a perfect partner for a description about a shark that swam 1,749 miles up the Mississippi River into Illinois!

The Far Side of Science Gallery may have people laughing, but the Academy hopes to also get visitors thinking about nature and the people who study it.

Winter Classes and Tours

Keep away the winter doldrums by participating in classes offered by the Adult Education Office. Acquire a new skill, learn a thing or two about our amazing world, and have fun!

Stuck In The Mud
December 3-17
A close look at salt marsh inhabitants, with two field trips to compare coastal and bay marshes.

Rockets, Satellites, and Spaceprobes – December 3-17
Outer space technology! Come and discover the latest "universal" technological hardware.

Headlines
January 5-February 9
Learn to draw great faces using professional models as your subjects. Beginners and accomplished artists will sharpen their skills for creating realistic and expressive portraits.

Wines of France and California
January 6-February 3
An in-depth look at the "ecology" of growing various grapes while we taste, compare, and enjoy!

Kelp Baskets – Section 2
January 23
A popular new course! Kelp, an easy medium with which to work, lends itself well to beginning basketmaking.

Home Saltwater Aquarist
January 7-28
Learn from a Steinhart Aquarist how to keep a healthy, happy tank of beautiful saltwater fish.

Sex in the Sea
January 7-28
The innermost secrets of sea creatures for the shiest of naturalists.

A Tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium – January 22
See the West Coast's newest aquarium through the trained eyes of a Steinhart aquarist.

Travel the World with the Academy

Visit a country or cross a sea you have always dreamed about. Academy tours are led by scientists who can add a new dimension of understanding to the wonderful experience of travel.

1988 Expeditions:

Antarctica Expedition
January 7-20
Leader: Dr. Kathy Ann Miller

Tanzania Tenting Safari
January 14-30 - wait list
Leader: Beth Dunbar
March 3-19
Leader: Dr. Pepper Trail

The Natural History of Costa Rica - wait list only
February 1-18
Leader: Dr. Frank Almeda

The Fringe of Ancient Polynesia
March 4-24
Leader: Dr. John McCosker

Baja California and the Sea of Cortez
March 24-April 4
Leader: Dr. James Kelley

Alaska: Land of the Midnight Sun
June 20-July 4
Leader: Dr. David Kavanaugh

The Land of Genghis Khan: Mongolia and Siberia
June 9-July 1
Leader: Dr. Robert Drewes

Beyond the North Cape Edinburgh to Spitsbergen
June 24-July 13

The Academy Travel Office would be happy to answer questions or send you further information on these expeditions; call (415) 750-7222.

The Christmas Star Shines in the Planetarium

"The Christmas Star," the traditional holiday show in Morrison Planetarium, opens on December 4. The show looks at the beautiful night skies of the winter which hold brilliant star clusters and swirling nebulae. The huge star projector then turns to the ancient skies over Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. Was the Christmas star real or a myth? A supernova, a rare comet — what could explain this widely-recounted legend? "The Christmas Star" can be seen weekdays from December 4 through January 3 at 2:00 p.m. and on weekends and New Year's Day at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. There will be an additional weekday show at 3:30 p.m. from December 21 through 31.

The Planetarium will be closed on Christmas Day.

"Exploring the Skies of the Season" looks at the phases of the moon, the constellations and what's up in the sky from sunset to sunrise. If you can't get outside on a clear night, this is the next best thing to being there. Shows are at noon on Saturdays and Sundays.

Young Audiences

The dynamic troupe Kadeka introduces youngsters to the world of dance on Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m. Kadeka's energetic performance relates dance to the everyday world of children. The dances are inspired by the familiar in a young person's life — bubblegum, fire flies and pinwheels, enriching children's understanding of dance as an expressive art form. The programs in this series are sponsored by Young Audiences, Inc., a non-profit organization with funding from the McKesson Foundation and the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. Performances are free after admission to the museum.

Share Your Academy
with a gift membership that lasts all year!

For _____

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Circle one category:

Individual	$30
Family	35
Student	20
Senior	15
Senior couple	20

Pacific Discovery Magazine only

within the U.S.	$13
outside the U.S.	15

Enclosed is a check to the California Academy of Sciences for $ _____

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Phone _____

Mail to: Membership Office, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Questions? Call (415) 750-7111.

Special Thanks

The Academy has a Corporate Membership available to foundations or corporations who make an annual contribution of $250 or more. One of the benefits is an invitation to a Thank You Party to be held in March. The following gifts have recently been received toward the annual fund, special exhibits or the "Starry Night" dinner dance.

$15,000
Mervyn's

$10,000
The San Francisco Chronicle

$5,000
Mortimer Fleishhacker Foundation

$2,500
American President Companies Foundation*

$1,500
Booz, Allen & Hamilton Inc.*
Levi Strauss Foundation

$500
Consolidated Freightways
Craftsman Press
Gold Fields Operating Company
B.T. Rocca and Company*

$250
Bay Optical Instrument Service
Coldwell Banker

*contributions to "Starry Night"

California Academy of Sciences

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December at the Academy

Continuing exhibits:

"Tracks in the Sky" through February 7
"Drylands" through May 8
"John Muir's High Sierra" through January 10
"Young Photographers Contest" through January 3

4 "Christmas Star" opens in Planetarium
5 Traditional Arts - Russian dances 1:00 p.m.
6 Free concert in Wattis Hall 3:00 p.m.
7 Members' Holiday Festival 6:45 p.m.
8 "Nativity Folk Art Display" opens
8 Pacific Arts Trio in Planetarium 8:00 p.m.
9 Members' Meetings 'A Whopping Small Dinosaur' 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
10 Members' Meeting 7:30 p.m.
12 Traditional Arts - Victorian sing-along 1:00 p.m.
12 Deutscher Musik-Verein band plays Christmas music 2:30 p.m.
13 Young Audiences - dance group Kadeka 1:00 p.m.

Delucchi/Price

Shop The Academy Store for the Holidays. Share your enthusiasm with the Academy and its collections by giving unique gifts: baskets, pottery, textiles, and art objects from around the world. The Academy Store also offers a beautiful assortment of specially selected Holiday gift items including glassware, jewelry, books, and a tremendous selection of unique children's gifts. Remember that all members enjoy a 10% discount on Academy Store purchases and that all purchases benefit the Academy and its programs.

A Look Ahead at January

3 Last Day of "Christmas Star" in Planetarium
12 Lecture on Raptors 7:30 p.m.
13 Members' Meetings "The Birds of Northern Scotland" 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
14 Members' Meeting 7:30 p.m.